POCAHONTAS COUNTY

FIRST THINGS IN MARLINTON (Continuation of report for April 3 on the history of Marlinton)

The first court was held under an oak tree on the west side of the river by Squire G. M. Kee. The first lawyer to plead in Marlinton was F. J. Snyder a noted lawyer who lived in Huntersville. He was opposed that day by L. M. McClintic who was just starting on his professional career.

The first term of the Circuit Court was held in 1893. The election to move the county seat from Huntersville to Marlinton was held in the fall of 1891, and a Temporary Court House, and old wooden structure was erected.

The judge was Judge A. N. Campbell of Monroe County. He was a great lawyer over six feet tall, with a heavy black beard, and weighed 315 pounds.

The first sheriff of the county Major William Poage, lived at Marlinton. His house was near Eleventh Street on Camden Avenue. In this house was born James A. Moffett who in his lifetime was president of the Standard Oil Company of Indiana.

The first postmaster was James Atlee Price.

The first student to go to college from this place was Rev. William T. Price A. B., A. M., D. D.

The first bank was the Bank of Marlinton in 1899.

The first newspaper was the Pocahontas Times, founded in 1882 at Huntersville and moved to Marlinton in 1892.

The first store was opened by J. K. Apperson in a house now occupied as a dwelling. The first business of any kind established in Marlinton was a combined saw mill and carding mill built by James A. Price before the Civil War. It was in charge of James E. A. Gibbs who later became wealthy by the invention of a sewing machine.

One of the first stores was opened by Paul Golden who is still among us, and still in the mercantile business. A sign that he had painted on the store in his early days caused some hilarity among the nations of the world. It read:

"Go no farther to be cheated". The language is loose and capable of two constructions. Anyway it has the right to be grouped under the head of Commercial Candor. (Paul Golden is a Jew who had come here from Europe)

The first school of which there is any official record was a private enterprise. It was opened in a building that stood near Riverside, and it closed after a session or two.

The first teacher's institute was held in 1886 in the Presbyterian Church.

The first church was the Presbyterian on the site of the present church.

The first resident judge of the court was Summers L. Sharp.

The first mayor of the town was Andrew Price.

The first state senator was N. G. McNeil.

The first Presidential Elector was Col. O. H. Kee.

The first delegate to the legislature, L. M. McClintic.

The first member of the county court Dr. Norman R. Price.

The first chief of police, J. A. Sharp.

The first train to arrive was in 1900 when the track was completed to this place.

The first jail delivery was when Armstrong and Cumberland got out of jail at dusk one evening in the nineties. The jail had been completed and it was the modern idea of a strong jail. It was confidently expected that it would hold any body. The county had suffered a series of bold robberies and suspicion had attached to Alex Armstrong, an intelligent colored man, a native of this county, who had removed to an Ohio town. It was thought that he raided this county regularly and that he would come to the nearest railroad station, make a quick trip into the county and return with his booty. This belief was so sure that the authorities waited and watched for his return, and he showed up one winter day traveling incognito with a big, burly, strange negro. R. K. Burns arrested them and they were indicted and convicted of the robbery of Capt. A. M. Edgar, held up at the point of a revolver in his own house at nightfall.

...e called the jailor in and then got between him and the door and made their escape. A large force of volunteers patroled the roads all night and in the morning found the negroes about two miles from Marlinton. They had gotten lost and had wandered all night and when captured were about exhausted.

The two oldest buildings still standing are the Toll House and the McLaughlin House.

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By - Andrew Price

CORRECTION

In my manuscript on the History of Marlinton mailed in about April 3. I made this statement. "This is the oldest land mark east of the Mississippi".

It should read thus:

(This is the oldest land mark in the Mississippi basin.)